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**Subject:** Support student activists opposing white supremacy; Climate change disrupting the birds and the bees and more

Support student activists opposing white supremacy;  
Climate change disrupting the birds and the bees and more

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*August 21, 2017*

*Critical information about the environment delivered weekly*



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**Campus & Community Action**

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## Students and environmentalists rally against white supremacy in Virginia and North Carolina — and now they need our help.

After the white supremacist violence in Charlottesville on August 12th—and in the wake of lasting environmental harms to communities of color across the U.S.—the

question now is: what's next? Our various methodologies for change,

though effective, have not resulted in the progress we need to keep our communities safe from racism and environmental toxicity. In what ways can we act to produce lasting change and eradicate the hatred that fuels white supremacy?



RCC stands in solidarity with the Virginia Student Environmental Coalition, Durham Solidarity Center, and many others who routinely counter white supremacy. We implore you to take the time to learn about and witness what is happening, and with that knowledge, take action:

1. Members of the **Virginia Student Environmental Coalition** placed themselves in



the line of fire and now need our assistance with their medical bills. [Donate here](#).

2. Members of the **Durham Solidarity Center** are supporting those who have been unreasonably imprisoned and pushing against the hate in song, dance, and unrivaled resilience. [Donate here](#).

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## Environmental News

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### **A podcast explores chicken farming: Can we escape the dangerous cost of antibiotics?**



Chicken is such a mainstay of the contemporary American dinner table that it seems hard to imagine that, just a century ago, it was rare and expensive. But over the course of the 20th century, both chickens and the chicken industry exploded in size. Much of that growth can be attributed to the miraculous properties of antibiotics, which were developed to fight human diseases but quickly began to be fed to farm animals in vast quantities. Journalist and author [Maryn McKenna](#) weaves these two intertwined tales together in her new book, [\*Big Chicken: The Incredible Story of\*](#)

[How Antibiotics Created Modern Agriculture and Changed the Way the World](#)

[Eats](#). In this episode of Gastropod, she describes the consequences of decades spent feeding chicken antibiotics, in terms of chicken flavor, poultry well-being, and, most significantly, human health.

[Listen on Gastropod.](#)

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## **Industrial meat production is killing our seas. It's time to change our diets.**

Every spring, as the snows thaw, water rushes down the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, spreading life, then death into the Gulf of Mexico.

The floodwaters are laden with fertilizers washed from fields and factory farms. As spring turns to summer, excessive nutrients first



drive a huge bloom of living plankton, then cause death on a gargantuan scale as a dead zone blossoms across the seabed. Most years it grows swiftly to over 5,000 square miles of seabed, killing everything that cannot outrun it.

[Read more on The Guardian.](#)

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## **National parks put a ban on bottled water to ease pollution. Trump just sided with the lobby that fought it.**



The Trump administration has ended a six-year-old ban on selling bottled water at some national parks that was aimed at easing plastic pollution and the huge amount of waste being recycled.

In a statement that closely tracked the arguments of a campaign by the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) in opposition to the ban, the National Park Service said the 2011 action under the Obama administration “removed the healthiest beverage choice at a variety of parks while still allowing sales of bottled sweetened drinks.”

[Read more on The Washington Post.](#)

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**Renewable energy isn't just cutting costs,  
it's saving lives.**

Renewable energy is very much in the limelight these days, as country after country experience how these sources can keep at par with fossil fuels. Various places have shown how renewables are capable of supplying a huge chunk of their



electricity demands — [one Austrian state is powered by 100% renewables](#), while the UK is nearing 50 percent [and the](#) United States just reached 10 percent. Renewables do so much more, though, as a recent study published in the journal [Nature Energy](#) now shows.

[Read more on Futurism.](#)

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## Fracking jobs prove elusive to coal miners looking to switch



Robert Dennis has mined coal in West Virginia for 10 years but a recent evening found him in a classroom at his local community college. He came to learn about opportunities in fracking, a drilling technique used to produce natural gas — the very fuel that is



threatening coal's future.

"I know mining inside and out," said Dennis, a 41-year-old shift foreman from Wetzel County, adjusting the black Adidas cap on his head. But now, "I just want more doors to be open."

[Read more on Bloomberg.](#)

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**Bill McKibben: Switching from coal to natural gas will  
not save our planet**

MOST magic tricks and confidence games mostly work the same way — a little bit of misdirection to get the audience looking in the wrong direction. And some of the finest magicians at large in America today are its natural-gas salesmen, who have worked hard to reassure us



that they're part of the solution to the global warming crisis. To understand why that's a ploy — to understand why they're in fact helping drive the heating of the planet — you have to pay close attention. [Read more on Seattle Times.](#)

1. [Sign a petition](#) to tell the CDC that America needs a fracking health registry.
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## **Exxon Mobil is still pumping toxins into a black community in Texas 17 years after civil rights complaint**



Joseph Gaines was sitting on his porch in the Charlton-Pollard section of Beaumont, Texas, on a recent evening in June, sipping beer and chatting with some of his neighbors about the NBA playoffs, when a loud boom cut through the night and a stream of fire lit up the sky. A few

minutes later, a strong, unpleasant odor settled over the street. As soon as they smelled it, the men stopped arguing about LeBron James and left the porch, covering their mouths and noses as they hurried into their homes.

[Read more on The Intercept.](#)

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## Climate change is disrupting the birds and the bees

Our changing climate seems set to disrupt just about everything. From rising sea levels to ocean acidification, the list of negative consequences from climate change is endless. But one area that often goes unmentioned in the climate

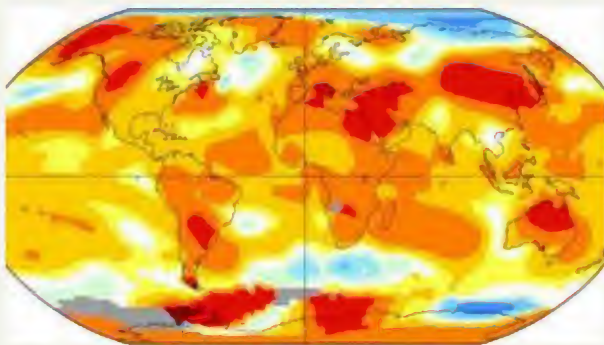


change discussion is sex. Over the last two decades, scientists have found that warmer temperatures are quietly spoiling the mood, making it harder for plants and animals to reproduce.

[Read more on BBC.](#)

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## July ties record for warmest month on Earth



In a surprising finding, NASA released data Tuesday showing that July 2017 is tied for the warmest such month on record, statistically deadlocked with July 2016. This means that July was one of the warmest months the planet has seen in 137 years of record-keeping, comparable to July and August 2016, which



tied for the record for the warmest month overall.

What makes this year's July record noteworthy is that it occurred in the absence of a natural climate cycle, like El Niño, which would help heighten global average surface temperatures. A strong El Niño, combined with human-caused global warming, helped push 2016 to claim the record for the warmest year since reliable thermometer records began in 1880.

[Read more on Mashable.](#)

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The Rachel Carson Council, founded in 1965, is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson to carry on her work after her death. We promote Carson's ecological ethic that combines scientific concern for the environment and human health with a sense of wonder and reverence for all forms of life in order to build a sustainable, just, and peaceful future.

Over the years we at RCC have been devoted to providing you the public with important, timely information about the environment. RCC exists because of donations from individuals like you.

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